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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

CC92-77

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November 23, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Chief Deputy Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Richardson:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Sandra Peticolas-Garley, County Manager, Quay County Government, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the Further Notice and press release accompanying it for your information.

The Further Notice sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The Further Notice sought comment on this analysis and asked interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The Further Notice also invited parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost. Reply comments were due September 14, 1994. Presently, the Commission is evaluating the comments submitted and considering the implementation of BPP along with other options.

The Further Notice also explicitly sought comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the Further Notice sought additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The Further Notice also sought comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

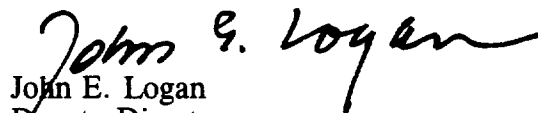
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The Honorable Bill Richardson
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Thank you for your interest in this proceeding. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the Further Notice, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Logan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John E. Logan
Deputy Director
Office of Legislative and Inter-governmental Affairs

Enclosures

3D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO
WASHINGTON:
2349 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190
WHIP OFFICE:
H-156 U.S. CAPITOL
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

BILL RICHARDSON
CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3103

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CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
HELSINKI COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

September 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Reed:

I am writing to bring to your attention concerns which we both share. I would greatly appreciate you addressing the issues contained in the attached letter.

I believe the letter outlines issues best handled by you and your office. I am certain that your understanding and expertise are best suited to addressing the concerns raised. I look forward to your response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I can provide you further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Bill Richardson
Chief Deputy Majority Whip

BR/mm

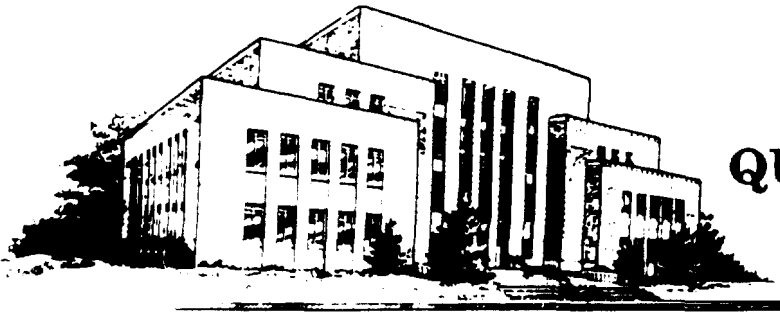
DISTRICT OFFICES

SANTA FE:
411 PASEO DE PERALTA
SANTA FE, NM 87501
(505) 988-7230

GALLUP:
GALLUP CITY HALL
2ND AND AZTEC STREETS
GALLUP, NM 87301
(505) 722-8522

LAS VEGAS:
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. Box 1805
LAS VEGAS, NM 87701
(505) 425-7270

CLOVIS:
802 MITCHELL STREET
CLOVIS, NM 88101
(505) 769-3380



QUAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

300 South Third Street - Courthouse

P.O. Box 1246

Tucumcari, New Mexico 88401

(505) 461-2112

July 27, 1994

Honorable Bill Richardson
204 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

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JUL 30 1994

Dear Congressman Richardson:

I am very concerned about the proposed Billed Party Preference (BPP) regulation that is now under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. There are several ways that the BPP will negatively effect the Quay County Detention Center when companies providing private pay phones and inmate phone systems are eliminated by BPP.

1. Phone number blocking capabilities will be lost - increasing victim and witness harassment by inmates.
2. Detention Center operating costs will rise as we will have to go back to phone call supervision by facility personnel.
3. Inmate call monitoring and/or recording capabilities we now subscribe to will be lost as the remaining commercial long-distance calling companies have no reason to provide this service.
4. Answering parties are now informed that the caller is in our detention facility and that they will be billed if they accept the call. When we loose the inmate phone system service, inmate initiated phone fraud will be reintroduced to this facility.

I feel this regulation will be a step backward for all correctional facilities, and a disservice to the 10,823 county residents who have to pay the bills for inmates in the Quay County Detention Center. I am completely opposed to the BPP and I urge you to contact the FCC before this regulation is adopted to let them know that they will be creating real problems for us if they pass BPP.

Sincerely,

Sandra Peticolas-Garley

Sandra Peticolas-Garley
County Manager

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